From: Ralph Rodkey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm a Computer Science major at a small private college in Indiana, so these Microsoft hearings have a potentially serious impact on the landscape of the industry that I've chosen to spend the rest of my career in. I have several major concerns concerning the Proposed Final Judgment. First, I would love to see the middleware APIs opened, but the Proposed Final Judgment has flawed definitions that would allow Microsoft to easily re-close the APIs by changing version numbers. Second, the provisions concerning OEMs do not limit Microsoft's ability to extend its monopoly, specifically on Intel hardware. Third, and most important, no consideration is made of any Open Source software. The PFJ only places limits on commercial operating systems. Microsoft itself has stated that Linux is its prime competitor at the moment, yet the PFJ makes no mention of limits in this area. I consider this issue to be extremely important. The developers of Open Source generally work on their own time and money, and thus have nothing approaching the resources that Microsoft can bring to bear, both financially and legally. Many cutting-edge technologies are developed through the Open Source process, and allowing Microsoft to subsume this would be a grievous hurt to the entire industry. Please consider these issues, and thank you for your time and effort.

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